THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The price of indigenously produced Penicillin G Ist Crystal, which is used for the manufacture of Semi Synthetic Penicillins, has been increased from Rs. 886/- per BU to Rs. 933/- per BU on the basis of price revision applciations submitted by M/s. HAL & IDPL, due to rise in the cost of major raw materials and utilities.

(c) No, Sir, as the prices of semi-synthetic Penicillins are also being revised due to impact of price increase of Penicillin G Ist Crystal.

Molasses based Petrochemical Units

1464. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to encourage growth of molasses based petrochemicals units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): Petrochemicals are mainly produced from hydrocarbon feed stock though there are some units based on alcohol route also. However, the choice of feed stock is left to the entrepreneurs concerned. Given the size of petrochemical units, the preference is mostly for hydrocarbon route.

Price increase in Bulk Drugs & Formulations

1465. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the bulk drugs and formulations the prices of which have been increased after January, 1992 till so far;

(b) what were their earlier prices, revised prices and the extent of increase in each case and when was the revision affected;

(c) what were the main reasons for increase in price of each bulk drug and formulation;

(d) whether revised consumption norms which have been achieved by the companies were seen in any of these cases;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what is the period to which BICP norms relate in each of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The requisite information in respect of bulk drugs whose prices have been revised upwards after January, 1992 is given in the annexed Statement. The number of formulations based on such bulk drugs run into several hundreds. The time and labour involved in compiling the requisite details will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. [*See* Appendix CLXIV Annexure No. 28]

(c) to (e) The main reason for increase in the prices of bulk drugs and formulations is increase in the input costs and escalation is worked out in accordance with the escalation formula given by BICP in their cost-cum-technical study report and supporting data furnished by the applicants.

(f) BICP recommend the prices of bulk drugs for a period of 3 years and revision as and when requested by the manufacturers is considered on the basis of escalation formula given, in the BICP report.

Gas based fertilizer industries

1466. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas based fertilizer industries could produce fertilizers at cheap cost;